



# Tracking COVID-19 for Safer Schools<sup>1</sup>

## Preliminary Study Results and Key Findings

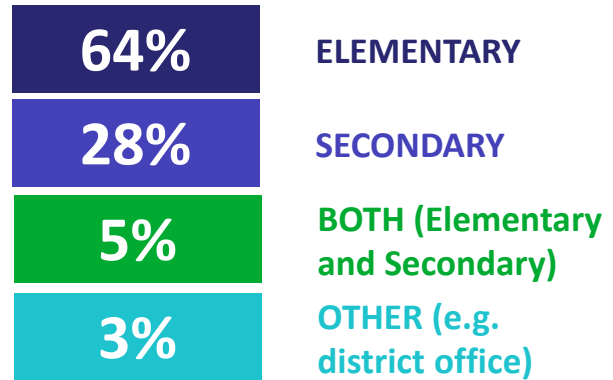


### 1 KEY RESULTS



#### Participants

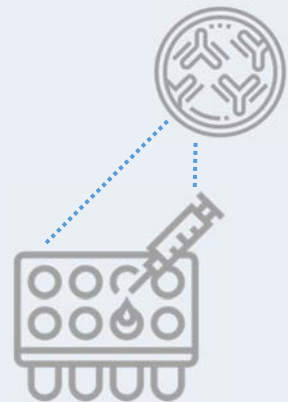
Of enrolled school staff, 78% worked in classrooms, and 1,556 (92.1%) had their blood tested for antibodies (serology test)



**Serology (antibody) tests** use a sample of blood to check for antibodies produced by the body after exposure to the COVID-19 virus. A positive result means that a person was previously infected with the virus.

#### What is Serology?

- The serology test used in this study detects antibodies against the “S” protein that is part of the virus and included in COVID-19 vaccines. In individuals who had been vaccinated, we also used a serology test to detect the “N” protein that is unique to the virus.
- This dual testing allows detection of COVID-19 infections prior to the beginning of the school year in September 2020, while excluding antibodies produced after the COVID-19 vaccine.
- In the study, the serology test was positive in nearly all staff who had COVID-19 (>95%), demonstrating that this testing approach was very good at detecting past infections.



<sup>1</sup>This study is funded by the Government of Canada via its COVID-19 Immunity Task Force



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**21.5%** of school staff reported close contact with a COVID-19 case...

But only **2.3%\*** showed evidence of a past COVID-19 infection, comparable to the prevalence in the local community (matched on age, sex and geography)<sup>#</sup>

**93%** of school staff who participated intended to get a COVID-19 vaccine



\*adjusted for the sensitivity and specificity of the serology test, as of May 15, 2021; #more details in full scientific article currently undergoing scientific peer-review

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### MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Despite a high rate of reported exposure to COVID-19 cases, the rate of COVID-19 infections among school staff (detected by sensitive serology testing) was the same as the rate found in the local community.
- This study suggests that school staff did not experience a greater risk from COVID-19 than the general population with the measures implemented by schools during the 2020-21 school year.



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### FUTURE STEPS

The Safer Schools team thanks all of you for your valuable participation to this initiative

- Results will be shared more broadly and published in scientific journals after a peer-review process.
- Participants will be contacted for further serology and questionnaire in the Fall
- Our team has collected data on close contacts of COVID-19 cases to further investigate positivity rates among students and staff.... **Stay tuned!**



For more information please visit: <https://www.bcchr.ca/COVIDatschools> or contact the study Principal Investigators, Pascal Lavoie or Louise Mâsse at: [abcovid@bcchr.ca](mailto:abcovid@bcchr.ca)



COVID-19 IMMUNITY TASK FORCE / GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR L'IMMUNITÉ FACE À LA COVID-19



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